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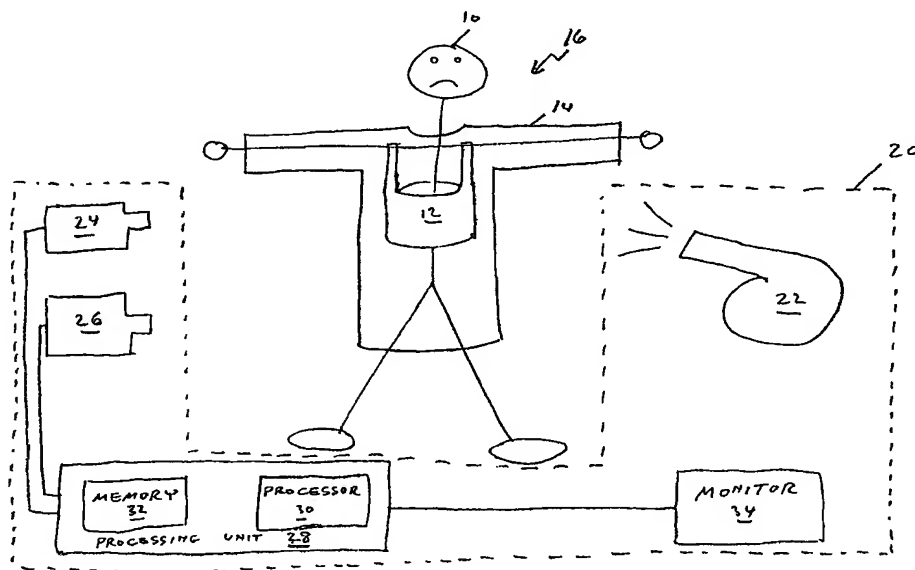
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(54) Title: METHOD OF DETECTING CONCEALED OBJECTS



(57) Abstract: An object concealed in a body is detected by transiently heating or cooling at least part of the body surface, imaging that part of the surface in the mid- or far-infrared, and seeking the concealed object in the image(s). Alternatively, the body is imaged as the temperature of its environment fluctuates naturally. Preferably, multiple infrared images are acquired and are processed to provide a measure of the body's thermal diffusivity, the object then being sought according to that measure of thermal diffusivity. Most preferably, the heated/cooled part of the surface is imaged in the visible or near-infrared band too, and the two sets of images are processed together to provide the measure of the body's thermal diffusivity.

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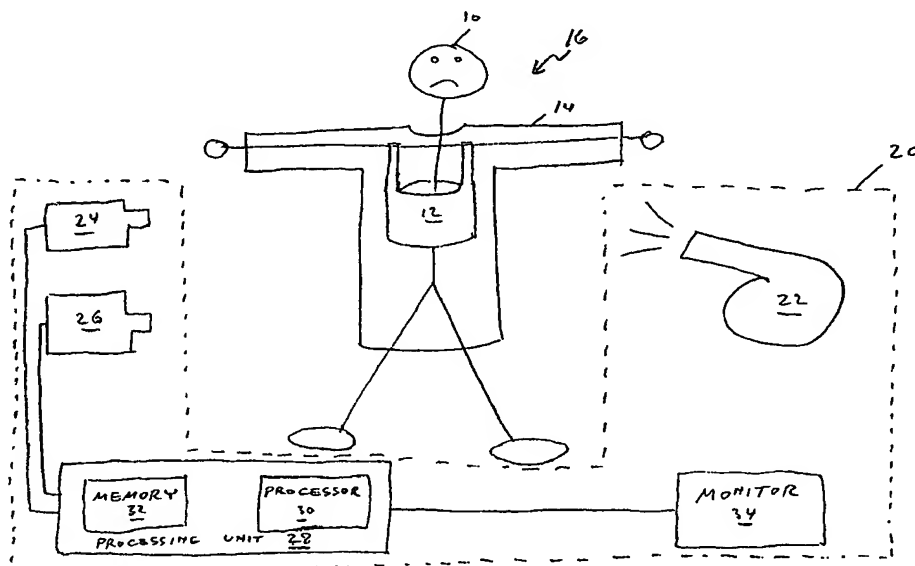
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(57) Abstract: An object (12) concealed in a body (16) is detected by transiently heating or cooling at least part of the body surface, imaging that part of the surface in the mid- or far infrared, and seeking the concealed object (12) in the image(s). Alternatively, the body (16) is imaged as the temperature of its environment fluctuates naturally. Preferably, multiple infrared images are acquired and are processed to provide a measure of the body's thermal diffusivity, the object (12) then being sought according to that measure of thermal diffusivity. Most preferably, the heated/cooled part of the surface is imaged in the visible or near-infrared band too, and the two sets of images are processed together to provide the measure of the body's thermal diffusivity.